Act, 1969, has ordered a preliminary investigation to be conducted by the Director General (I&R). On receipt of the Investigation Report from the said officer, the Commission is empowered to take further appropriate action in the matter, as per the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 relating to unfair trade practices.

Posts lying vacant in various departments of Ministry of Industry

2705. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of posts are lying vacant in the various departments of the Ministry of Industry for the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not filling up these posts; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick industries in Andhra Pradesh

2706. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sick industries in Andhra Pradesh will be nationalised or revived;

(b) if so, whether any list of sick industries or any recommendations in relation thereto have been received from the State Government by his Ministry; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) For revival of sick industrial units Government of India have got a uniform policy for the whole country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. Some of the important aspects of the same are as follows:

(i) The Government have enacted a comprehensive legislation namely, 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, (BIFR) has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to the banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(iii) The banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units. The banks and financial institutions evolve rehabilitation packages for the revival of sick units.

(iv) Reserve Bank of India have also issued guidelines separately to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sectors.

(v) Government of India introduced a 'Margin Money Scheme' with a view to supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in reducing the incidence of sickness in the small scale sector. Under the liberalised scheme the maximum amount of assistance per